

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 128730
ORIGIN SY-05

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 A-01 STE-01 SS-15 /035 R

DRAFTED BY A/SY/OPS/T:B C RUNNER:JW
APPROVED BY A/SY: V H DIKEOS
A/SY/OPS/T - M H MUSSER
A/SY/OPS/T - C PELCZYNSKI
A/SY/OPS/FO - P HARRICK (DRAFT)
A - J THOMAS
DESIRED DISTRIBUTION
A/SY/OPS/FO/EUR, A/OPR/ST/S, A/OPR/ST/P, M (READ), A (THOMAS)
-----073838 212210Z /15
R 211947Z MAY 78
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMCONSUL MILAN
INFO AMEMBASSY ROME

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 128730

ROME FOR RSO FROM DASS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ASEC, ASUP, IT

SUBJECT: BALLISTIC TEST OF LEXAN

REF: A. MILAN 0734, B. 75 STATE A-7405, C. A/SY/OPS/T MEMO
DTD 11/26/77, SUBJ: TESTING OF BALLISTIC MATERIALS

1. APPRECIATE INFORMAL TESTS OF LEXAN MR-4000 PANEL AT
AMCONSUL MILAN WHICH CONFIRM INFORMATION PROVIDED TO ALL
POSTS IN REFERENCE B. AS NOTED IN REFERENCE B, LEXAN
MR-4000 ALONE WILL ONLY DEFEAT UP TO AND INCLUDING .38
CALIBER AMMUNITION THREATS. BY ITSELF, IT WILL NOT, REPEAT
NOT, DEFEAT 9 MM AMMUNITION THREATS, EVEN WHEN FIRED AT
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PAGE 02 STATE 128730

LOWER VELOCITIES FROM A PISTOL.

2. REFERENCE B FURTHER NOTES THAT WHEN LEXAN MR-4000 IS
FRONTED WITH GLASS, IT WILL DEFEAT UP TO AND INCLUDING 9 MM
PARABELLUM AMMUNITION FIRED FROM A SUBMACHINE GUN. STANDARD
GLASS AND TEMPERED GLASS (AS USED IN VEHICLE SIDE AND REAR
WINDOWS) SHATTERS ON IMPACT OF THE FIRST ROUND AND FALLS

AWAY, EXPOSING THE LEXAN PANEL. FOR THIS REASON, LEXAN IS RATED TO DEFEAT ONLY ONE 9 MM ROUND WHEN INSTALLED BEHIND TEMPERED OR STANDARD GLASS. IF INSTALLED BEHIND LAMINATED SAFETY GLASS, LEXAN MAY BE MORE RESISTANT TO DEFEATING MULTIPLE HITS OF 9 MM AMMUNITION FIRED FROM A SUBMACHINE

GUN DUE TO RETENTION OF GLASS IMPACT SURFACE.

3. DURING THE PAST THREE YEARS, LEXAN MR-4000 HAS BEEN USED IN THE SY WORLDWIDE VEHICLE ARMORING PROGRAM. EVEN THOUGH IT ONLY AFFORDS A SINGLE 9 MM ROUND DEFEAT CAPABILITY WHEN INSTALLED INSIDE THE SIDE AND REAR GLASS AREAS OF A VEHICLE, IT HAS BEEN THE MOST PRACTICAL FIELD INSTALLABLE SYSTEM AVAILABLE. AT THE PRESENT TIME, EXTENSIVE RESEARCH AND TESTING IS UNDERWAY TO COME UP WITH AN IMPROVED SYSTEM WHICH WILL BE EQUALLY AVAILABLE FOR WORLDWIDE FIELD INSTALLATION.

4. IN PARAGRAPH ONE OF REFERENCE A, IT WAS IMPLIED THAT 9 MM PARABELLUM AMMUNITION USED IN THE TEST WAS TYPE USED BY LOCAL TERRORIST ORGANIZATIONS. REQUEST THAT ATTEMPTS BE MADE TO OBTAIN AND FORWARD FIFTY ROUNDS OF THIS AMMUNITION TO A/SY/OPS/T FOR APPROPRIATE BALLISTIC TESTS.

5. AS NOTED IN REFERENCE C, EXTENSIVE BACKSIDE SPALL, SIMILAR TO THAT ENCOUNTERED WITH THE ST. GOBAIN-BLINDOVIS
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PAGE 03 STATE 128730

TRANSPARENT ARMOR, IS AS LETHAL AS THE PROJECTILE. THERE IS NO SPALL FROM POLYCARBONATE MATERIALS SUCH AS LEXAN.
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